

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 499

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to recognize Selmer First United Methodist Church upon the occasion of its 125th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the many fine churches across this State constitute an institutional foundation for an orderly and just society for all Tennesseans, and their dedicated service to God and humanity is the bedrock upon which our State and nation are founded; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic and historic community of faith is Selmer First United Methodist Church, whose members recently celebrated the church's 125th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, rooted in the Methodist tradition of devoted service to others, especially the poor, orphaned, and sick, Selmer First United Methodist Church traces its genesis to the advent of Methodism in the area in 1892; it was during that year that the Selmer Falcon Charge was formed and a pastor was appointed to serve the circuit; and

WHEREAS, at that time, the Methodists held worship services in the courthouse; however, four years later, in 1896, the first Methodist house of worship was erected on the corner of Court Avenue and South Sixth Street; and

WHEREAS, in 1918, the congregation increased in membership to warrant a full-time minister and became known as Selmer Station; by 1926, the congregation had outgrown its original building, so the structure was razed to make way for a larger brick building; and

WHEREAS, growth continued into the 1950s, and in 1968, the Methodist and United Brethren denominations combined; the resulting group of worshippers was renamed Selmer

First United Methodist Church, and the congregation moved into its newly erected building on Highway 64 in 1972, where the congregants worship still today; and

WHEREAS, over the decades, the Methodists have been known for their service and faithful witness to the community; the church has sponsored many community events, activities, and programs, such as Living Nativity scenes, adult and children's choirs, pre-school, ministries for youth and children, and vacation Bible schools. Congregants have also given of their time and talents volunteering with outreach ministries such as Jesus Cares and Loaves and Fishes; and

WHEREAS, Selmer First United Methodist Church continues its impressive legacy of devoted fellowship and worship, serving as a testament to the enduring power of faith in action; as it looks to the next 125 years of ministry, the congregation will focus on the mission of "Bringing Hope and Changing Lives"; and

WHEREAS, Selmer First United Methodist Church has become one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and nation, as it has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love for 125 years; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join in celebrating the 125th anniversary of Selmer First United Methodist Church, thank the good people of this remarkable congregation for their notable service to their Lord and this State, and wish them much continued success and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.